

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The office action of November 21, 2003 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-27 are pending. Claims 9-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-5, 7-9 and 11-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sudman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,385,475) in view of Guy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,833,468). Claim 6 was objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 10 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and if rewritten in independent form.

In response, the Applicants have clarified the claims to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. As a result, the Applicants submit they have overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and respectfully request withdrawal of this ground for rejection.

The Applicants have amended claims 1 and 9 to incorporate the limitations of claims 6 and 10, respectively, as suggested by the Examiner. The Applicants have amended claim 24 in a similar manner. The Applicants therefore submit these claims and all claims depending from these claims are now in allowable condition.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all claims are in allowable condition and that no fee is required for this submission. If any fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.

All rejections and objections having been addressed, Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicits prompt notification of the same.

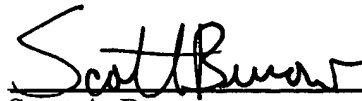
Application No.: 10/056,872
Amendment dated February 17, 2004
Reply to Office Action mailed November 21, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated: February 17, 2004

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Burow", written over a horizontal line.

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